

ConCom Reviews Damage to East Street Cranberry Bog Lands

By MARK CABANA

The conservation commission is reviewing options after taking a tour of damaged conservation lands on East Street this week.

Joining members of the conservation commission was Ed Hardy, a concerned resident, Joe Grady the town conservation administrator, and Lawrence Pink and his son who work for Red Eye Cranberry Company which leases the lands.

The meeting was held as a fact finding mission on which the conservation commission will base their future decision

on. "There will be no decisions made here today," said Arthur Vautrain, chairman of the conservation commission, "we are here only to gather information."

Those present were able to get a good look at roughly thirty trees that had been pushed over with an excavator as well as some three to five foot holes dug out near wetland areas.

When cranberry grower Lawrence Pink was asked why he knocked over the trees he said, "I didn't really give it a thought. The trees were blocking the sunlight to the bog and were also in the way of our ma-

chinery."

The normal practice for tree work around cranberry bogs is to trim the trees back or cut them down with a chainsaw and to eventually remove the tree.

"There is nothing wrong with pushing the trees back," said Pink "its much quicker and cheaper than trimming. And there is no way any of my people will move those trees."

Although the work may be necessary it is unattractive to some residents.

"Its disgusting," says Ed Hardy pointing to the splintered trees, "people come to these

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conservation lands to walk and to be surrounded with beauty. Not this kind of destruction."

"Some of this work is appropriate because this is a working farm," said Mark Mahoney, former chairman of the conservation commission. "We do want Red Eye Cranberry here to do farm work, but this is not the same as private property and we would like to see this work done in a practice that is

visually un-disruptive."

The East St. cranberry bog consists of two hundred acres and is the largest bog in Duxbury. The land was bought in 1971 and has yielded over \$200,000 in revenue for the town over the years.

It remains uncertain what the conservation commission will do about this dilemma but the commission will have a decision at the next meeting on August 22.